WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A method, comprising:

an acquiring step of acquiring a number indicative of how many picture frames are guaranteed in a predetermined time period, the number being determined according to at least one of a transmission source and a transmission destination of image information;

a counting step of counting a number indicative of how many picture frames of the image information are transmitted to the transmission destination from the transmission source in the predetermined time period; and

a transmitting step of culling the image information transmitted from the transmission source according to the number of the guaranteed picture frames and the number of the transmitted picture frames, and transmitting the culled image information to the transmission destination.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transmitting step transmits the culled image information if the number of the transmitted picture frames is larger than the number of the guaranteed picture frames, and transmits the image information without culling if the number of the transmitted picture frames is not larger than the number of the guaranteed picture frames.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image information is encoded for every frame of the image information.

4. An apparatus, comprising a unit configured to acquire a number indicative of how many picture frames are guaranteed in a predetermined time period, the number being determined according to at least one of a transmission source and a transmission destination of image information, to count a number indicative of how many picture frames of the image information are transmitted to the transmission destination from the transmission source in the predetermined time period, to cull the image information transmitted from the transmission source according to the number of the guaranteed picture frames and the number of the transmitted picture frames, and to transmit the culled image information to the transmission destination.

5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said unit transmits the culled image information if the number of the transmitted picture frames is larger than the number of the guaranteed picture frames, and transmits the image information without culling if the number of the transmitted picture frames is not larger than the number of the guaranteed picture frames.

6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the image information is encoded for every frame of the image information.

7. An apparatus which connects a plurality of networks, comprising:

a first unit which receives image information from a first network;

a second unit which transmits the image information to a second network;

a third unit which stores a number indicative of how many picture frames are guaranteed in a predetermined time period, the number being determined according to at least one of a transmission source and a transmission destination of image information;

a fourth unit which stores a number indicative of how many picture frames of the image information are transmitted to the transmission destination from the transmission source in the predetermined time period; and

a fifth unit which counts the number of the transmitted picture frames of the image information transmitted from the transmission source to the transmission destination to store the number of the transmitted picture frames in the fourth unit, and culling the image information transmitted from the first network according to the number of the guaranteed picture frames and the number of the transmitted picture frames to transmit the culled image information to the second network.

8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the image information is encoded for every frame of the image information.